

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 02075 311256Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----023359 311301Z /45

Z O 311223Z JUL 78 ZFF-4
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1421
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FLASH
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2075

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: LEBANESE ARMY MOVE TO SOUTH

REF: (A) BEIRUT 4321, (B) DRAPER-NEWLIN TELCONS

1. THIS IS SITUATION AS SEEN FROM JERUSALEM UNHQ AT 1400 HOURS ISRAELI TIME.
2. TWO REPEAT TWO ARTILLERY SHELLS FROM VICINITY MARJAYOUN LANDED NE OF KAWKABA ON ROAD USED BY LEBANESE CONVOY ABOUT 1215 LEBANESE TIME. NO OTHER FIRING IN VICINITY OF CONVOY OF NORWEGIANS YET CONFIRMED HERE.
3. ERSKINE HAS REPORTED TO SAUNDERS IN BEIRUT CONVOY IS NOW IN TEMPORARY HOLDING PATTERN IN KAWKABA AND IS AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM LEBANESE ARMY HQ IN BEIRUT.
4. ERSKINE FIRMLY DENIES UNIFIL OR ANY ELEMENTS THEREOF IMPEDING PASSAGE OF CONVOY.

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5. UNIFIL CHIEF OF OPERATIONS COL RANA, HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH HADDAD IN MARJOYOUN AND IS NOW ON HIS WAY TO KAWDABA TO CONSULAT LEBANESE COMMANDER.
6. HADDAD HAS THREATENED TO OPEN FIRE ON CONVOY AT 1500 LEBANESE TIME. (IT IS NOT CLEAR TO UNHQ WHETHER HADDAD SIMPLY OPPOSES TRANSIT OR WHETHER HE DEMANDING

LAF DEPART AREA.)

7. UN IS FULLY PREPARED TO ESCORT CONVOY IF HADDAD AGREES AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK IN THIS DIRECTION ARGUING BEST WAY TO DEFUSE CURRENT SITUATION IS TO ALLOW CONVOY TO GO ON TO TIBNIN.

8. I REPORTED ABOVE TO SAM LEWIS WHO AGREED TO CALL WEIZMAN AND URGE HADDAD LIFT HIS THREAT TO OPEN FIRE ON LAF.

9. COMMENT: DESPITE ERSKINE'S STATEMENT TO SAUNDERS, I SUSPECT MESSAGE FROM NORBATT, PARA ONE REFTTEL, PROBABLY CORRECT. IT SOUNDS SIMILAR TO MESSAGE UBIQUITOUS COL GAL HAS BEEN PEDDLING AT UNHQ HERE AND AT NAQOURA. ERSKINE HIMSELF, HOWEVER, IS SOLID. AND UNIFIL OFFICERS ON THE SPOT ARE DOING THEIR BEST.

NEWLIN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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